

LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes  
Thursday, October 18, 2018, 6:30pm  
Jefferson Cutter House Gallery, 611 Mass. Ave, Lower Level

Present: Anna Watson, Mel Goldsipe, Julia Forsythe, Bill Gardiner, Lisa Krinsky, Helene Newberg

Absent: Brooks Harrelson

Guests: Megan Morse, Rob Lorino, Allison Ballbach, Katy Kania

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm

1. Announcements: October 18 is Spirit Day, when we wear purple to show we oppose bullying of LGBTQIA+ students (<http://www.glaad.org/spiritday>); Asexual Awareness week is Oct. 22-28 (<http://www.intersexday.org>)
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Assign minute-taker: Helene
4. Approve Minutes from September meeting: Mel moved to accept, Bill seconded, motion passed
5. Correspondence received: Discussed handling of requests to co-sponsor community events and use of Rainbow Commission Facebook presence
6. Community Crafts/Potluck event 10/27: Queer Mystic will pay for craft instruction for two-hour event.
7. FY 2020 Budget: Mel moved to ask Finance Committee for \$4,000 for FY 2020. Bill seconded. Motion passed. Lisa and Bill will present request to FinCom with line-item breakdown as appropriate.
8. Ballot Question 3: Helene moved to accept Rainbow Commission resolution in support of Freedom for All Massachusetts Yes on Three Campaign as amended. Julia seconded, Motion passed. Mel moved to request that the Select Board pass a resolution in support of Freedom for All Massachusetts Yes on Three efforts. Julia seconded. Motion passed. Helene moved to request the School Committee to pass a resolution in support of Freedom for All Massachusetts Yes on Three efforts. Bill seconded. Motion passed. Julia moved that the Rainbow Commission co-sponsor with the library a Cake and Community event on November 7th from 4:30 to 6:30 to provide a community space to process the results of the vote. Helene seconded. Motion passed.
9. Strategic Planning Meeting: Set for December meeting agenda. Julia to coordinate with Christine Bongiorno regarding facilitator. Agenda to be discussed at November meeting. Bill and Brooks will discuss membership on this committee. Lisa also expressed interest in this committee.
10. Restorative Justice Circle update: Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) requests resources for anti-homophobia education, such as books, movies, websites. Anticipated apology letter will not be printed or distributed but may be shared orally at Rainbow Commission events.
11. Transgender Day of Remembrance: Mel moved that in honor of the Transgender Day of Remembrance that Anna and Mel write a special commentary to be published in the

- Arlington Advocate as individuals describing the remembrance and pointing community members to events planned for Boston and Lexington. The article will be signed by Mel and Anna as individuals but will also note their roles with the Arlington Rainbow Commission. Bill seconded. Motion passed. Deadline for publication on 11/15 is 11/13.
- 12. Municipal Equality Index: Arlington scored 98 out of 100 points. Actual score includes 6 bonus points. Areas to improve include gender neutral bathrooms both for town employees and at local businesses, as well as town government statements in support of LGBTQIA+ issues. Subcommittee to meet in January to plan for 2019 Human Rights Commission survey and scoring.
  - 13. Inclusive Language during meetings and events: Strategic planning process will address a policy encouraging thoughtfulness and presumption of good faith about using and/or endorsing language that some may find empowering and others may find offensive.
  - 14. End of year social: Community members have requested holiday-adjacent gathering. Allison offered to investigate Senior Center availability and dates. January was suggested as an alternative to often-overloaded December timeframe.
  - 15. Events recap and planning meeting: Half hour discussion scheduled for November meeting to discuss approach to educational events.
  - 16. Open Forum: Megan Morse established a networking connection to the Belmont Human Rights Commission.

Mel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm. Helene seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Helene Newberg, Commissioner